



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

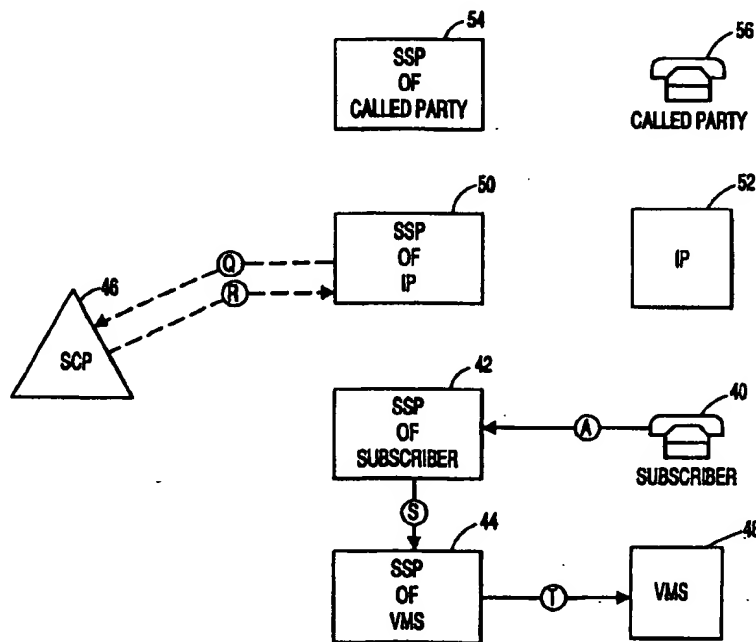
(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : H04M 3/533, 1/64, 1/65, H04L 12/58, H04Q 3/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/51327 (43) International Publication Date: 31 August 2000 (31.08.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/04766 (22) International Filing Date: 25 February 2000 (25.02.00) (30) Priority Data: 60/121,932 26 February 1999 (26.02.99) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BELLSOUTH INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CORPORATION [US/US]; Suite 510, 824 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ADAMCZYK, Maria [CA/US]; 3050 Hartridge Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30022 (US). BRAND, Joel [IL/US]; 168 Blackstone Drive, Danville, CA 94506 (US). BRAUDES, Robert, E. [US/US]; 19 West Street, Danvers, MA 01923 (US). (74) Agents: PRATT, John, S. et al.; Kilpatrick Stockton LLP, Suite 2800, 1100 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30309-4530 (US).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR ENABLING RETURN TO SAME POSITION IN A REVIEW OF MESSAGES IN A VOICE MAIL SYSTEM USING TAG OR IDENTIFIER STORED IN THE VOICE MAIL SYSTEM

(57) Abstract

Methods and systems for enabling a subscriber to interrupt a review of messages in a voice mail system (VMS), to make a call or take some other action, and to return to the same position as occupied at the time of interruption in the review of messages in the VMS. In response to an indication from the subscriber's communication to leave the review, an identifier is created to mark the position of the subscriber's communication in the review. The identifier is stored in the VMS. The VMS transmits a release message with respect to the subscriber's communication, the message including a copy of the identifier. The message may be a GR-1129 message including a remote operations (RO) parameter with the copy of the identifier. In response to the release message, a service control point (SCP) stores the copy of the identifier and causes whatever action is indicated in the message to be taken with respect to the subscriber's communication. In response to receipt of a release

message from a network element other than the VMS, the SCP routes the subscriber's communication including the copy of the identifier to the VMS. The VMS uses the copy of the identifier with the identifier to place the subscriber's communication in the same position occupied previously in the review.



PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 36968/190661	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 00/ 04766	International filing date (day/month/year) 25/02/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 26/02/1999
Applicant BELLSOUTH INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CORPORATION et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR ENABLING RETURN TO SAME POSITION IN A REVIEW OF MESSAGES IN A VOICE MAIL SYSTEM USING TAG OR IDENTIFIER STORED IN THE VOICE MAIL SYSTEM.

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

4

☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern. Application No

PCT/US 00/04766

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H04M3/533 H04M1/64 H04M1/65 H04L12/58 H04Q3/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04M H04L H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 97 08901 A (MOTOROLA INC) 6 March 1997 (1997-03-06) the whole document ---	1-4, 6, 7, 9-11
A	US 5 712 903 A (MCDERMOTT CHRISTINE D ET AL) 27 January 1998 (1998-01-27) column 12, line 43 -column 17, line 14; figures 3, 4B, 5 ---	1-4, 6, 7, 9-11
A	US 5 742 905 A (BROCKMAN JAMES JOSEPH ET AL) 21 April 1998 (1998-04-21) column 1, line 11 -column 36, line 63 --- -/--	1-4, 6, 7, 9-11

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 June 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

14/07/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
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Authorized officer

Nash, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 00/04766

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>SOS E: "DIE T-NET-BOX - DER ANRUFBEANTWORTER IM NETZ" TELEKOM UNTERRICHTSBLAETTER, DE, HAMBURG, 1998, pages 1-8, XP000861610 ISSN: 0942-7287 the whole document -----</p>	<p>1-4, 6, 7, 9-11</p>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/04766

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9708901	A	06-03-1997	CN 1194078 A EP 0886978 A JP 11512201 T US 5872521 A	23-09-1998 30-12-1998 19-10-1999 16-02-1999
US 5712903	A	27-01-1998	NONE	
US 5742905	A	21-04-1998	CA 2199802 A EP 0782805 A JP 9511884 T WO 9609714 A US 5742668 A	28-03-1996 09-07-1997 25-11-1997 28-03-1996 21-04-1998

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT


REC'D 08 JUN 2001

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 36968/199881	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US00/04766	International filing date (day/month/year) 25/02/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 26/02/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04M3/533		
Applicant BELLSOUTH INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CORPORATION et al.		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the reportII <input type="checkbox"/> PriorityIII <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicabilityIV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of inventionV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statementVI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents citedVII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international applicationVIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application		
Date of submission of the demand 19/09/2000	Date of completion of this report 06.06.2001	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Nash, M Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2032	



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/04766

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-22 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-12 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/4-4/4 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US00/04766

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims 1-12
	No: Claims
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims 1-12
	No: Claims
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims 1-12
	No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US00/04766

been marked, after reading or automatically tagged using rules setup by the user.

- c. The further documents cited in the search report only disclose side aspects of the present invention.

3. Object

The **object of the invention** is not to have to listen to previously heard voice mail messages each time the voice mail system is accessed. For example a subscriber listens to voice mail messages that have been left, and has the time to hear the first three messages and then the first 30 seconds of the fourth message. The subscriber then has to leave for a meeting and returns to continue to listen to the voice mail messages exactly where the hearing of the last voice mail message was stopped, i.e. exactly 30 seconds into the fourth message.

4. Present Invention and Solution

The idea behind the present invention is:

- a. When the subscriber leaves the review of voice mail messages, a tag is left to mark the position of the subscriber's position in the review,
- b. the tag is stored (in the voice mail system), and
- c. on returning to the voice mail message review, the stored tag is used to establish the correct position.

5. Conclusion

The present invention clearly differentiates itself from the **cited** prior art and is not rendered obvious by the documents that are cited in the search report and is thus seen as novel and inventive, Article 33(2) and (3) PCT.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US00/04766

The dependent Claims 2 to 5, 7, 8 and 10 to 12 disclose further embodiments of the independent method Claims 1 and 6 and the independent system Claim 9 which thus also fulfil the requirements of Article 33(2) and (3) PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

The present application is obviously also industrially applicable and thus fulfils Article 33(4) PCT.

With respect to item VII.

Certain defects in the international application

1. To meet the requirements of Rule 6.3(b) PCT the independent claims should have been cast in the two-part form, with those features known in combination from the prior art (see document D1) being placed in a preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in a characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).
2. To fulfil the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, document D1 should have been identified in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein briefly discussed.
3. The opening part of the description should have been brought into conformity with any amended independent claims (Rule 5.1(a)(iii) PCT).

Furthermore, following the disclosure of document D1, the statement indicating the technical problem to be solved by the invention, required revision, which should have been effected taking the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(iii) PCT into account.

4. Reference signs placed in parentheses should have been inserted into all the claims to increase their intelligibility (Rule 6.2(b) PCT). This applies to both the preamble and the characterising portion.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US00/04766

5. The words "which is incorporated herein by reference" (page 1, line 10; page 10, line 18; page 13, line 14 and 7) should have been deleted because the cited documents are not essential for carrying out the invention within the meaning of Article 5 PCT (Guidelines C-II, 4.17).
6. The reference to the U.S. applications (on page 1, lines 6 to 10 and page 13, lines 10 to 14), since these are not open for public inspection until the patents are granted, should have been replaced with the respective publication numbers and the publication dates.
7. Due to the pertinence of the document D1 the Applicant should have indicated in the letter of reply the difference of the subject-matter of the claims vis-à-vis the state of the art and the significance thereof.

With respect to item VIII.

Certain observations on the international application

1. Although Claims 1, 6 and 9 have been drafted as separate independent claims, they appear to relate effectively to the same subject-matter and to differ from each other only with regard to the definition of the subject-matter for which protection is sought and in respect of the terminology used for the features of that subject-matter. The aforementioned claims therefore lack conciseness. Moreover, lack of clarity of the claims as a whole arises, since the plurality of independent claims makes it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for which protection is sought, and places an undue burden on others seeking to establish the extent of the protection.

Hence, Claims 1, 6 and 9 do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.

In order to overcome this objection, it would appear appropriate to file an amended set of claims defining the relevant subject-matter in terms of a single independent claim in each category, in this case a single independent claim in the method category and a single independent claim in the system category followed

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US00/04766

by dependent claims covering features covering further embodiments (Rule 6.4 PCT).

2. The independent system claim 9 is not clear (Article 6 PCT) because:
 - a. the category is not clear: is it a position of a subscriber's communication or actually a voice mail system that is being claimed (page 25, lines 1 to 4)? The claim should be modified so that the category of the claim is unambiguously discernable.
 - b. the wording used is ambiguous: how can a system enable the subscriber's communication to make a call (page 25, lines 2 and 3)? The function that is to be performed should be described clearly using wording found in the description.

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